

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2009

In attendance: Peter Bolduc, Gene Cordes, , Robert Larson, Dawn Lewis and Cheryl Rowell

Meeting started at 9:00 AM at the Fremont Town Hall

❖ **Old Business**

➤ **Minutes** from meeting held December 2, 2008 were accepted.

➤ **Grants**

- RGGI grant
 - Thom Roy helped Bob Larson submit an application for this grant at the end of March. The grant was for ~\$11,000 for insulation and solar panels for the safety complex.
 - There will be some competition for these grants, but additional grants will be awarded every 6 months.
- Grassroots Grant
 - Money has been sent to the Committee and has been given to Heidi Carlson.

➤ **Energy Audits**

- An independent energy audit contractor, Jack Quatrimony, from LRS has completed energy audits on all municipal building - results will be forwarded to the committee at some point.
- The committee discussed having a free energy audit from LRS for Ellis School. It was decided to move ahead with this - Bob Larson will contact Jack Quatrimony and have him contact Principal Dawn Lewis.
- The committee then discussed asking Clay Mitchell if he knows someone who would be able to do electrical audits.

➤ **Ellis School**

- The Jordan Institute has visited Ellis School and conducted a complete review of the energy use and efficiency of the school. A report has been sent to Dawn Lewis. The report will be copied and distributed to the Committee. The School Board will also see the report and it is hoped that the two groups may work together on the next steps (listed below).
 - ◆ Main concerns at Ellis:
 1. heating/cooling system - distribution of heat and hot water is very inefficient
 - recommended replacing furnaces
 - Gene mentioned that there are quicker fixes for lack of hot water (small water heaters in bathrooms)
 2. ventilation - from October to March no fresh air going into building
 3. very little insulation in the top of the building

- The next step to proceed would cost \$14,500 and the improvements would be paced. There was discussion about types of funding for such projects. Dawn Lewis will check with Ed Murdock from the DOE about funding - there may be some \$ available for renovations. Bob Larson will check with RGGI and the PUC offices of energy and planning, and will email findings.
 - Questions
 - ♦ Cost of renovation?
 - ♦ How can the renovations be segmented?
 - ♦ projected energy savings?
 - ♦ how can this be funded? Will there be stimulus \$ available?
- Bus/Fuel use
 - Dawn Lewis will be talking to the bus company soon and will ask them what our current use is.

➤ **House Bill 189**

- Enables municipalities to establish energy committees. This would also allow money to be funneled to the committee.
- Has passed the House, but not sure where it is now (Jack Barnes was non committal in his response).
- If the bill is passed by the Senate it is possible that the Town of Fremont may also have to adopt the article. Bob Larson will call to see where the bill stands.

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Programs:
 - Brentwood Energy Committee is having a program on April 23rd on
 - Clean Air/Cool Planet program on June 20th.
- There was a discussion about having a Fremont community informational meeting to discuss energy improvement incentives in combination with the school. It was thought that the committee could invite Sara Kaufman from Clean Air Cool Planet to speak or Julia Dundorff from the Office of State Planning.
- Gene Cordes will look up the codes for energy saving tax write offs.
- Representatives may be able to answer what is going on for these energy saving tax incentives at the federal level.
- The Community Action program will be insulating about 4000 houses in the state with stimulus funds.

- A proposal to showcase energy home improvements/building was discussed. Suggested topics were the new geothermal houses in Fremont by Lennon builders and the Newton, NH greenhouse new heating system.
- Bob Larson will work on a reference document (1-2 pages) for the community that will include places to go for certain information. The Committee could leave a copy in the library, hand it out on bulky day and could be updated periodically.

❖ **Meeting adjourned**

- ~11:10 AM. Next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25th; 9 AM at the Fremont Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Rowell